

Serial No. 10/647,642

PATENT

REMARKS

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In the Office Action dated 17th August 2005 claims 1, 3 to 9, 11 - 19, 22 and 23 are pending of which claims 1, 3 to 5, 7 - 9, 11 - 13, 15 - 19, 22 and 23 are rejected and claims 6 and 14 are objected to.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 9, 11, 12 13, 17 - 19, 22 and 23 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by US patent 5,873,906 (Lau et al).

Claims 5, 7, 8, 15, and 16 are rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over US patent 5,873,906 (Lau et al) in view of US Patent 4,913,141 Hillstead.

Claims 6 and 14 are objected to as being dependant on a rejected base claim but the examiner has indicated that they are allowable if rewritten to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

An amendment have been made to claim 1 to include the subject matter of claims 5 and 6 and these claims are cancelled. An amendment have been made to claim 9 to include the subject matter of claims 13 and 14 and these claims are cancelled. Consequential amendments to the claim dependencies in claims 7, 15 and 19. Claim 22 has been amended to include the subject matter of Claims 5 and 6. We submit that in making these amendments no new subject matter has been added.

Claim 23 has also been cancelled.

We thank the examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter and we submit that the amendments made serve to introduce the allowable subject matter into each of the independent claims remaining, claims 1, 9 and 22. We submit that the claims are now not anticipated or unpatentable over the art cited.

The examination and reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested and it is further requested that this application be passed to issue.

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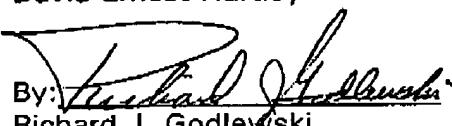
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Although the foregoing discussion is believed to be dispositive of the issues in this case, applicants' attorney requests a telephone interview with the Examiner to further discuss any unresolved issues remaining after the Examiner's consideration of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: March 15, 2006

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